

NASA-LaRC SAFETY NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICE OF SAFETY AND FACILITY ASSURANCE, SEMA

August 1994

MACHINES ARE HARD WORKERS

When used safely, machines are an important and productive part of the workplace. Some machines perform complicated jobs that we wouldn't have imagined just a few years ago. Your workplace may include machines that:

- 1- Cut or shear material using saws, alligator shears and guillotine cutters.
- 2- Shape or form material such as power presses, punches, rollers, calendars, drills, boring machines and grinding wheels.
- 3- Assemble by welding, soldering, riveting, inserting, pressing, or tightening.
- 4- Handle materials such as cranes and forklifts.
- 5- Inspect by measuring or testing completed work or specimens.

Each year, thousands of workers suffer injuries, including cuts, punctures, amputations, fractures, abrasions, crushes hands or legs, and eye injuries that result in impaired eyesight or blindness. Beware of the danger zones of machinery. For everyone's protection, you should know the potential dangers of the machines at your workplace. Some common hazards include:

1-Mechanical Hazards

Point of Operation

This is the spot where the work takes place, whether it's cutting, punching, shaping, moving, lifting, or any other operation. If any part of the body is in the way, the force of the machine can cause serious injuries. The Point of Operation may also produce sparks or fragments, which can be propelled at the operator.

Power Train

This is the area where energy is transferred, especially through moving parts like gears, shafts, cables, hydraulic or pneumatic cylinders, and conveyer belts.

2- Electrical Hazards

Electric shocks, burns, or electrocution

These mishaps can be the result of operating machines improperly or in unsafe conditions.

Fire

Can be the result of poor electrical safety habits, including poor maintenance of electrical equipment.

3- Hearing Hazards

Machine noise levels are sometimes high enough to damage your hearing if you don't use hearing protection.

It is important to remember that when it comes to safety, machines can't think, **you're in command.**

LIFTING OPERATION SAFETY

Many LaRC employees have been trained and certified in lifting operations. In the near future, the Office of Safety and Facility Assurance (OSFA) will initiate a program to provide refresher training to all such employees. This will be the beginning of refresher training that is now a NASA agency requirement. This training requirement is being incorporated into the Langley Handbook (LHB) 1740.1, Training and Certification of Operators and Riggers to Perform Lifting Operations at LaRC. The present plan is for the first annual training session to be held as a group effort and coordinated by the OFSA. After this initial annual training, all supervisors of lifting operators are to conduct at least one safety meeting annually which will be dedicated exclusively to pertinent lifting safety issues. Additionally, these same supervisors are to review their noncritical lift operators qualifications every four years and document their findings to the Safety Manager.

Comments or suggestions on this program should be forwarded to Gary Carl at Mail Stop 429.